

REMARKS

The Examiner's comments together with the cited references have been carefully studied. Favorable reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coffee et al. (6,026,647).

Applicants take the position that Coffee discloses a thermoelectric cooler and warmer for food with a table top tray. The cooler has a rear member 50. A tray 58 is hingedly attached to a rear shell member 50. A front assembly 52 containing tray 58 is pivotally connected to main body 22 so that assembly 52 opens away from rear member 50. Tray 58 covers front assembly 52 obscuring view into the cooler. The tray surface is level for use on the cooler as well as when detached.

On the other hand, the present invention has a front shell member with a viewing window, or is transparent, for viewing items in the cooler with out opening the cover. Both the tray and front assembly of Coffee et al. must be opened to view the contents of the cooler. To make viewing easier, the front shell member is slanted. Slanting angles the window for easy viewing. Slanting allows the sides of the front shell member to be used as viewing windows also.

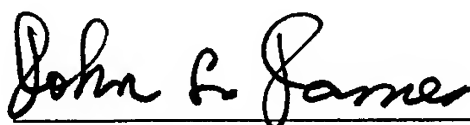
Claim 1 defines an apparatus with a front shell member having a top portion with a rear edge portion, a left side portion attached to the top portion, a right side portion attached to the top portion, and a front portion attached to the top portion, left side portion and right side portion. Each of the left and right side portions of the front shell member has top, bottom, front and rear edge portions with each

rear edge portion being greater in height than the front edge portion. The left and right side portions of the front shell member are tapered so that the top portion of the front shell member slants downward from rear to front. A transparent viewing window in the front shell member slants with the member making view the interior easier.

Claim 14 defines a lid for a cold box. The lid comprises a transparent front shell member having a top portion with a rear edge portion, a left side portion attached to said top portion, a right side portion attached to said top portion, and a front portion attached to said top portion, left side portion and right side portions. The left and right side portions are tapered so that the front shell member slants downward from rear to front. In addition, the lid has a front reinforcing rib extending along a bottom edge of the front shell member and a rear reinforcing rib extending along a bottom edge of the shell member. The ribs strengthen the transparent shell member which is opened and closed repeatedly when removing or replacing product.

It is believed that the claims in the application are allowable over the prior art and that the application is in condition for immediate allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendment A
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